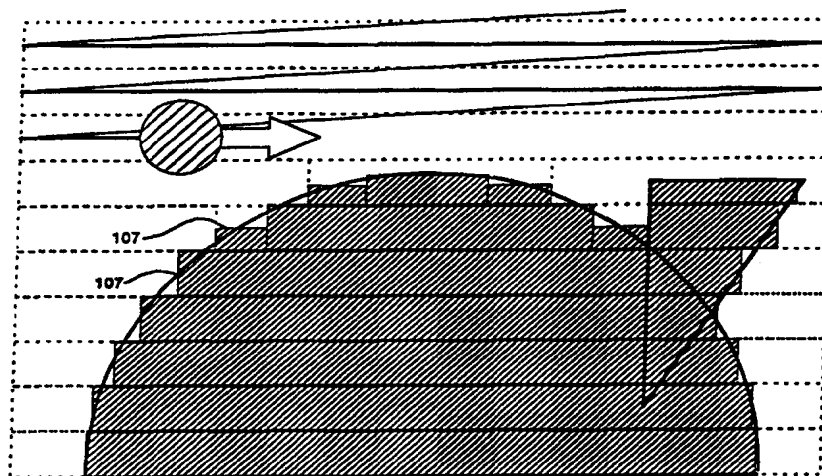




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/SE98/00347 (22) International Filing Date: 26 February 1998 (26.02.98) (30) Priority Data: 9700742-1 28 February 1997 (28.02.97) SE (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MICRONIC LASER SYSTEMS AB [SE/SE]; P.O. Box 3141, S-183 03 Täby (SE). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): THURÉN, Anders [SE/SE]; Torgnyvägen 21, S-183 72 Täby (SE). (74) Agent: AWAPATENT AB; P.O. Box 11394, S-404 28 Göteborg (SE).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 7 January 1999 (07.01.99)

(54) Title: DATA-CONVERSION METHOD FOR A MULTIBEAM LASER WRITER FOR VERY COMPLEX MICROLITHO-
GRAPHIC PATTERNS

**(57) Abstract**

The invention relates to microlithography, in particular to the writing of photomasks for computer displays, microelectronic devices, and precision photoetching. It is also applicable to wafers, optical devices and a variety of electronic interconnection structures such as multichip modules. Other applications are possible, such as printing and graphics, as well as laser projection displays. In the present invention the data conversion is divided in two steps: first cutting the geometries in scan lines and simplifying them, and then finishing the conversion of the scan lines at the point of demand, i.e. in a beam processor in the driving electronics for each beam. The idea is to make as much as possible of the conversion at the latest possible point, i.e. at the beams. What is needed at an earlier stage is to separate the data for different beams and distribute them, and to simplify the data enough to make sure that the beam processors can always handle the data flow.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 98/00347

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: G06K 15/12, G03F 7/20, G06T 11/20, H04N 1/04
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: G06K, G03F, G06T, H04N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0467076 A2 (MICRONIC LASER SYSTEMS AB), 22 January 1992 (22.01.92) --	1-14
A	US 5533170 A (ROBIN L. TEITZEL ET AL), 2 July 1996 (02.07.96) -- -----	1-14

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☒ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 August 1998

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Information on patent family members

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